



VIRGINIA-LATINO ADVISORY COMMISSION

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Ex Officio:

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Office of the Secretary
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Secretary of Commerce
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Office of the Secretary
of Health and Human
Resources*

*Philip D. Vasquez,
Office of the Secretary
of Transportation*

September 30, 2004

The Honorable Mark R. Warner
Governor, Commonwealth of Virginia
The State Capital
Richmond, VA 23219

Dear Governor Warner:

On behalf of all the members and as Chairman of the Virginia Latino Advisory Commission, I want to thank you for the opportunity to serve your administration. The Commission is very appreciative for the privilege of working among such a distinguished group of individuals from throughout the Commonwealth.

Last October, we accepted your challenge to review the issues faced by the Latino community in the Commonwealth, and to present you with a number of recommendations to resolve them. As we indicate in the attached report, we have met numerous times in different parts of the Commonwealth, both as a Commission and in Committees. We have offered the public a forum to address their concerns, as well as our recommendations to address them. We heard many worthwhile suggestions, a number of which we have incorporated herewith.

It has not been an easy task to limit the number of issues that we address in this report. We have done our best to provide you with a concise report that includes the most pressing issues that need to be addressed to ensure that Latinos have an opportunity to achieve the proverbial American Dream.

The submission of this report constitutes the final task for our Commission under your current Executive Order. But because the issues addressed in our report, as well as many others not included, have significant impact in the growing Latino community of our state of Virginia we respectfully recommend your consideration for the continuation of the Commission for an indefinite period of time. While we have worked hard for the last year to submit our report, much work remains to be done.



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Page -2-

On behalf of all of the Commissioners, we want to thank you for the opportunity to serve our Commonwealth. Please be assured that we stand ready to answer your call, should you decide to seek our assistance to implement the proposed recommendations in this report in the months ahead.

Sincerely,

J. Walter Tejada

Chairman, Virginia Latino Advisory Commission